In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 9 as follows.

1. (Amended Twice) An MR imaging method for imaging and determining the position of a medical device that at least in part is capable of being unfolded when inserted in an examination object, the method comprising:

arranging the examination object in an external magnetic field,

applying high-frequency radiation of a specific resonance frequency so that transitions between spin energy levels of the atomic nuclei of the examination object are excited, and MR signals are produced,

detecting the MR signals as signal responses, which are evaluated and imaged in spatial resolution,

unfolding the device after insertion into the examination object, and

producing a changed signal response of the examination object in a locally defined area with the device,

wherein the device includes a passive resonance circuit with an inductor and a capacitor, the circuit having a resonance frequency essentially equal to the resonance frequency of the applied high-frequency radiation, and

wherein the inductor is located in an unfolded part of the device in an area to be imaged with the changed signal response.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the application of the high-frequency radiation excites the resonance circuit so that the excitation of the nuclear spins of the examination object is amplified in the locally defined area.

3. The method according to Claim 2 wherein the locally defined area where the amplification of the excitation of the nuclear spins

takes place is located in a compartment formed within the device and surrounded by the inductor.

4. The method according to Claim 2 wherein the locally defined area where the amplification of the excitation of the nuclear spins takes place is outside the device and adjacent thereto, and wherein at least one resonance circuit is arranged on the surface of the device such that with the application of high-frequency radiation, the magnetic flow in the adjacent area is amplified.

5. The method according to Claim 1 wherein when high-frequency radiation is applied to the resonance circuit, the circuit becomes detuned or the capacitor is short circuited to the extent that no amplified excitation of the nuclear spins takes place in the locally defined area, but wherein when the signal response of the locally defined area is measured, the detuning of the resonance circuit or the short circuiting of the capacitance is canceled and results in a change in the signal response.

6. The method according to Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wherein the resonance circuit is adjusted to the resonance frequency by unfolding the device after insertion of the device into the examination object.

7. The method according to Claim 1 wherein at least one of the inductor and the capacitor are adjusted for the resonant tuning of the resonance circuit.

8. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the device has at least two resonance circuits whose inductors have coils, and wherein the coils of the respective inductors are oriented differently from each other.

9. (Twice Amended) A medical device that at least in part is capable of being unfolded comprising at least one passive resonance circuit having an inductor and a capacitor, whose resonance frequency is essentially equal to a resonance frequency of of an MR imaging system's applied high-frequency radiation, wherein a part of the device that is capable of being unfolded forms the inductor or the inductor is integrated into such a part, such that the inductor unfolds along with the device when the device is unfolded.

10. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the inductor is formed or arranged on the surface of the device.

11. The device according to Claim 9 or 10, wherein the inductor is formed by a conductor which runs on the surface of the device.

12. The device according to Claim 11, wherein the inductor is formed on a foil which is adhered to the surface of the device.

13. The device according to Claim 8 or 10, wherein the inductor is formed from the material of the device.

14. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the device is elongated in shape and has a longitudinal axis, the inductor is formed as a coil having an axis, and the axis of the inductor runs substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the device.

15. The device according to Claim 14, wherein the inductor is formed by a conductor arranged on the surface of the device in the shape of at least a single helix.

16. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the device is elongated in shape and has a longitudinal axis, the inductor is formed

as a coil having an axis, and the axis of the inductor runs substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the device.

17. The device according to Claim 16, wherein the inductor is formed by a spiral-shaped conductor formed or arranged on the surface of the device.

18. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the device has a plurality of resonance circuits with a plurality of inductors.

19. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the device has means for detuning at least one resonance circuit with the application of high-frequency radiation.

20. The device according to Claim 19, wherein the detuning means are designed such that they switch a condenser parallel to the capacitor of the resonance circuit with the application of high-frequency radiation.

21. The device according to Claim 19, wherein the detuning means are designed such that they switch a coil parallel to the inductor of the resonance circuit with the application of high-frequency radiation.

22. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the device is provided with means to short circuit the capacitor when applying high-frequency radiation.

23. The device Claim 22, wherein the means for short circuiting the capacitor comprises two diodes which are switched parallel to the capacitor.

24. The device according to Claim 9, wherein a switch is provided by which the at least one resonance circuit can be activated or deactivated.

25. The device according to Claim 9, wherein at least one of the inductor and the capacitor of the resonance circuit are adjustable for tuning to the resonance frequency of the MR system.

26. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the resonance circuit has a plurality of parallel or serially switched inductors and/or capacitors.

27. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the device is a balloon catheter having an axis and an outer skin on which a spiral-shaped or helix-shaped inductor is formed.

28. The device according to Claim 27, wherein the capacitor is in the form of parallel conductors which run along the axis of the balloon catheter.

29. The device according to Claim 9, wherein the device is a vena cava filter having elongated, movable toothed elements and the inductor is attached to the toothed elements.

30. The device according to Claim 29, wherein at least one of the inductor and capacitor are made of the same material as the vena cava filter.

31. An MR imaging system for performance of the method according to Claim 1.

32. An MR imaging system having a device according to Claim 9.

33. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the medical device is selected from a vena cava filter or a balloon catheter.

34. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the inductor is either formed by or integrated into an unfoldable part of the device.

35. The method according to claim 8 wherein the inductors are aligned one of perpendicularly to each other and behind each other.

36. The medical device according to Claim 9 selected from a vena cava filter or a balloon catheter.

37. The device according to Claim 15 wherein the helix is a double or multiple helix.

38. The device according to Claim 18 wherein the plurality of inductances are arranged perpendicularly relative to each other or arranged behind each other.

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are currently pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 for clarity and to place the claims in better condition for allowance. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore, respectfully requests reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of the application.

The Examiner rejected the specification under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Applicant has amended the specification for clarity to overcome this rejection and therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.